

March 2020 Embroidery/Sewing Club

Embroidered Reading Pocket Pillow

March 9th or 11th: 10AM – 1PM

March 11th: 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

With Marcia Barsotti

Make one of these cute, useful pillows with your choice of fabric and embroidery designs. Let your creative juices flow as you create a one-of-a-kind embroidered reading pocket pillow for yourself or someone close to you. This hands-on class is a great opportunity for beginning embroiderers and seasoned stitchers alike! You will be walked step-by-step through the process of creating your very own embroidered reading pocket pillow. (Pillow examples pictures are at the end of the Supply List on page 6 for an optional print out!)

Supplies Needed

Fabrics:

First you need to decide what size pillow you're going to make. Standard pillow sizes would be 14", 16", 18", 20", etc. (The pillows samples pictured are 16" and 18".) You need two or three different fabrics. See the attached charts for specific fabric yardages as well as measurements to cut for each pillow size.

- One focus or theme fabric for the pillow front and back.
- One coordinating/contrasting fabric for the outer embroidered pocket.
- One coordinating/contrasting (or the same fabric as above) for the pocket lining.
- You may want a small amount of contrasting/coordinating fabric for a binding at the top of the pillow pocket. Some constructions use the pocket lining as a binding for the top of the pocket as well. You may also choose to use ribbon or other trims for the pocket binding. This is totally personal preference.

Stabilizers:

- 1 or more pieces of Floriani Medium Tearaway for your embroidery hoop, depending on whether you have one or more hoopings to complete the pocket embroidery. ✓
- 1 piece of fusible fleece roughly the same size as the pillow pocket you are embroidering. ✓
- If you are using a woven cotton fabric, you may want to back all of your pillow pieces with Pellon Shape Flex Fusible (SF 101) to give more support and body to your pillow. ✓

Notions:

- 1 pillow form two inches larger all around than your finished pillow size (i.e.—a 16" pillow will use an 18" pillow form.)
- One 20-22" invisible zipper if you are using the zipper closing (Buy this length zipper for ANY sized pillow. We will be trimming excess zipper length for any of the pillow sizes.)
- Embroidery needle size 75/11; Microtex Sharp needle size 80/12 or 90/14 for constructing the pillow. ✓
- Temporary marking pen. ✓
- 6-inch seam gauge or small ruler. ✓
- Embroidery threads to coordinate with your design choices, as many as your designs require. ✓
- Regular sewing thread for constructing the actual pillow. ✓
- 2 different bobbins, depending on your color choices for the pillow:
 1. One bobbin with basic embroidery bobbin thread or use a pre-wound for embroidering your pillow pocket design. ✓
 2. One bobbin wound with regular sewing machine thread for sewing the pillow together. ✓
- In-the-Hoop Applique Scissors for trimming appliqué if your embroidery design has any applique; embroidery scissors for trimming threads; scissors for trimming away stabilizer, if needed. ✓
- Temporary adhesive spray and/or embroidery tape. ✓

Machine & Accessories:

- Embroidery/sewing machine in good working order with manual, power cord, embroidery foot, and regular sewing foot or walking foot. ✓
- You may want to bring a “Hump Jumper” to help in going over all the thicknesses when we create the boxed corners. Viking machines come with a button reed that can act as this kind of tool. I will bring mine with me the day of class if you need one to use. ✓
- Hoops: Whatever size hoop(s) you are able (or want) to use for embroidering the designs on the pillow pocket front. Large sized hoops are usually easier but choose whatever works best for you and your machine. Small hoops just mean you will probably have to hoop more than once to complete your embroidery design on the pillow pocket front. ✓
- Zipper foot (invisible zipper foot if you have one) if you are using a zipper closing on your pillow. ✓
- Normal sewing supplies such as straight pins, hand sewing needles, seam ripper, etc. ✓
- USB Stick to transfer embroidery designs to your machine, if needed. ✓

Fabric Yardage and Pillow Cut Pieces

On the next few pages you will find fabric amount recommendations and cutting specifications for 14”, 16”, and 18” Reading Pocket Pillows. Please remember these are merely guidelines. You are free to purchase any amounts you wish or use fabrics from your stash—whatever works best for you. I will be using the 2” rule—adding 2” more fabric around from the finished size of pillow. I think it’s easier to have extra than not quite enough. You can adjust my recommendations to what you feel comfortable with using. If you are using an envelope back closing, you may need slightly more fabric to create a closing of a reasonable depth, depending on the finished size of pillow you’re making. Most of these type closures seem to have about a six-inch overlap between the two back pieces.

I recommend if you are using woven cottons that you buy enough Pellon Shape Flex Fusible to fuse to your 3 main pillow pieces (front, back(s), and pocket front) for extra stability and body.

***You should preshrink the Shape Flex before cutting and applying it to your pillow sections. Submerge the whole piece in moderately warm, clear water for ten minutes (NO SOAP!). Remove it and gently wring out excess water. Hang or lay flat to dry, smoothing out wrinkles as much as possible. DO NOT put this yardage in the dryer at this point as it will ruin the fusible layer of the Shape Flex. When dry, you can cut and fuse the pieces to your three main pillow sections, following the manufacturer’s directions.*

Fabric and cutting recommendations are on the following pages!!

A samples picture is on the last page for optional print out.

14" finished Pillow

General fabric recommendations:

- 1 yard of focus or theme fabric for the pillow front and back using the envelope back closing, OR ½ yard if using a zipper closing
- 1/3 to ½ yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the outer embroidered pocket
Since you will be embroidering this piece so it is best to use a blender fabric or something without a lot of movement or patten so that your embroidery will show up well. Also be sure to use fabric colors that will allow your embroidery to show and not compete with your design. For example, if there is a lot of red in your design, don't use red fabric.
- 1/3 to ½ yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the pocket lining and front pocket binding border if you choose that finish. You could also use the other part of the fabric from the pocket front as lining if you bought fabric yardage and not just a fat quarter.
- If you are going to add a separate binding trim at the top of the pocket, you need to buy or find enough fabric to do this. A piece about 3" wide and 16" long would be sufficient for the binding trim. You could also use ribbons of various widths that coordinate with your fabric. In addition, you may also want to use this trim fabric or ribbon to create a handle for the pillow, approximately 12" long.
- 1/3 to ½ yard of fusible fleece to act as the main stabilizer for the front pocket embroidery.
- 1 ½ yards of Pellon Shape Flex Fusible (SF 101)—for woven cottons ONLY.

Cutting Recommendations:

- 16" x 16" Front of Pillow from focus or theme fabric
- 16" x 18" Back of Pillow from focus or theme fabric if using a zipper closing
OR two pieces 16" x 12" (vertical closing) or two pieces 12" x 16" (horizontal closing) for an envelope pillow back closure.
- 16" x 10" Pillow Pocket Front of coordinating/contrasting fabric to embroider
- 16" x 12" Pillow Pocket lining of coordinating/contrasting fabric if you plan to make a self-binding from the lining fabric; otherwise it is a 16" x 11" piece the same as the pocket size.
- 16" x 10" fusible fleece for Pillow Pocket front stabilizer
- 16" x 3-1/8" for a separate binding for the top of the pocket
- 12" x 3" fabric for a handle; for ribbon, you need a 12" length by whatever width ribbon you've chosen
- 12" x 2" of interfacing or Heat 'N Bond Lite for use with a fabric handle

16" finished Pillow

General fabric recommendations:

- 1 yard of focus or theme fabric for the pillow front and back using the envelope back closing, OR 2/3 yard if using a zipper closing
- 1/2 yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the outer embroidered pocket
Since you will be embroidering this piece so it is best to use a blender fabric or something without a lot of movement or patten so that your embroidery will show up well. Also be sure to use fabric colors that will allow your embroidery to show and not compete with your design. For example, if there is a lot of red in your design, don't use red fabric.
- 1/2 yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the pocket lining and front pocket binding border if you choose that finish. You could also use the other part of the fabric from the pocket front as lining if you bought fabric yardage and not just a fat quarter.
- If you are going to add a separate binding trim at the top of the pocket, you need to buy or find enough fabric to do this. A piece about 3" wide and 18" long would be sufficient for the binding trim. You could also use ribbons of various widths that coordinate with your fabric. In addition, you may also want to use this trim fabric or ribbon to create a handle for the pillow, approximately 12" long.
- 1/2 yard of fusible fleece to act as the main stabilizer for the front pocket embroidery.
- 1 1/2 yards of Pellon Shape Flex Fusible (SF 101)—for woven cottons ONLY.

Cutting Recommendations:

- 18" x 18" Front of Pillow from focus or theme fabric
- 18" x 20" Back of Pillow from focus or theme fabric if using a zipper closing
OR two pieces 18" x 13" (vertical closing) or two pieces 13" x 18" (horizontal closing) for an envelope pillow back closure.
- 18" x 11" Pillow Pocket Front of coordinating/contrasting fabric to embroider
- 18" x 13" Pillow Pocket lining of coordinating/contrasting fabric if you plan to make a self-binding from the lining fabric; otherwise it is an 18" x 13" piece the same as the pocket size.
- 18" x 11" fusible fleece for Pillow Pocket front stabilizer
- 18" x 3-1/8" for a separate binding for the top of the pocket
- 12" x 3" fabric for a handle; for ribbon, you need a 12" length by whatever width ribbon you've chosen
- 12" x 2" of interfacing or Heat 'N Bond Lite for use with a fabric handle

18" finished Pillow

General fabric recommendations:

- 1 yard of focus or theme fabric for the pillow front and back using the envelope back closing, OR 2/3 yard if using a zipper closing
- 1/2 yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the outer embroidered pocket
Since you will be embroidering this piece so it is best to use a blender fabric or something without a lot of movement or patten so that your embroidery will show up well. Also be sure to use fabric colors that will allow your embroidery to show and not compete with your design. For example, if there is a lot of red in your design, don't use red fabric.
- 1/2 yard (or one fat quarter) of coordinating/contrasting fabric for the pocket lining and front pocket binding border if you choose that finish. You could also use the other part of the fabric from the pocket front as lining if you bought fabric yardage and not just a fat quarter.
- If you are going to add a separate binding trim at the top of the pocket, you need to buy or find enough fabric to do this. A piece about 3" wide and 18" long would be sufficient for the binding trim. You could also use ribbons of various widths that coordinate with your fabric. In addition, you may also want to use this trim fabric or ribbon to create a handle for the pillow, approximately 12" long.
- 1/2 yard of fusible fleece to act as the main stabilizer for the front pocket embroidery.
- 1 1/2 yards of Pellon Shape Flex Fusible (SF 101)—for woven cottons ONLY.

Cutting Recommendations:

- 20" x 20" Front of Pillow from focus or theme fabric
- 20" x 22" Back of Pillow from focus or theme fabric if using a zipper closing
OR two pieces 20" x 14" (vertical closing) or two pieces 14" x 20" (horizontal closing) for an envelope pillow back closure.
- 20" x 12" Pillow Pocket Front of coordinating/contrasting fabric to embroider
- 20" x 14" Pillow Pocket lining of coordinating/contrasting fabric if you plan to make a self-binding from the lining fabric; otherwise it is a 20" x 13" piece the same as the pocket size.
- 20" x 12" fusible fleece for Pillow Pocket front stabilizer
- 20" x 3-1/8" for a separate binding for the top of the pocket
- 12" x 3" fabric for a handle; for ribbon, you need a 12" length by whatever width ribbon you've chosen
- 12" x 2" of interfacing or Heat 'N Bond Lite for use with a fabric handle

Samples Pictures:

